

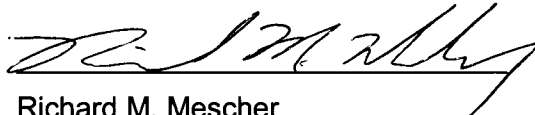
**REMARKS:**

Applicant has amended the claims to remove all multiple dependencies. Applicant has amended claims 3 to 5, 7, 9 to 11, 14 to 16, and 20 to 24, cancelled no claims, and added no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1 to 24 remain pending in the present application.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, Applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-2326.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Mescher', is written over a horizontal line.

Richard M. Mescher  
Reg. No. 38,242

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